# Laſt Dying Speeches,

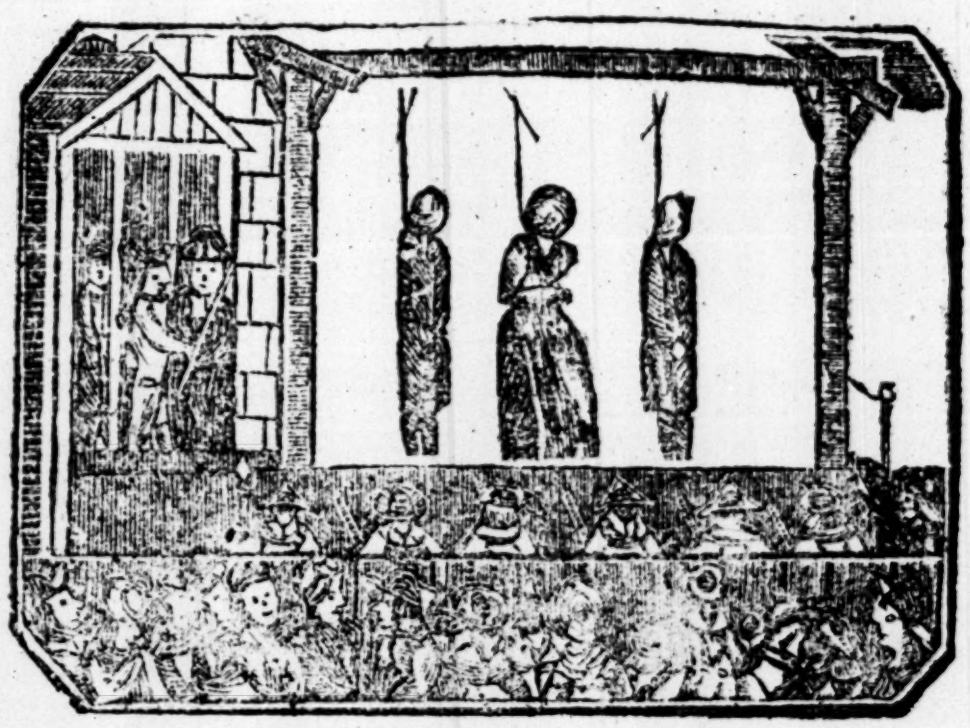
## Birth, Parentage, and Education,

## Of thoſe unfortunate Malefactors, *Leonard Tomlinſon* and

*John Claake*, for ſtopping Colonel Byron's Carriage, and ſhooting at his Coachman; and *Hannah Griffiths*, for robbing her Maſter; who were executed this Morning, on Kennington Common. August 10th 1796

## With a Copy of a Love LETTER written by Hannah

Griffiths, to her Sweetheart, the Night before ſhe ſuffered.



AT the aſſizes for the County of Surry, held at Guildford, the following perſons, with others, were capitally convicted, viz. Leonard Tomlinſon and John Clarke for ſtopping Colonel Byron's Carriage and ſhooting at William Rolfe, his Coachman; and Hannah Griffiths, for robbing her maſter.

On Sunday laſt thoſe three unfortunate criminals attended the ſermon preached on this melancholy occaſion in the chapel belonging to the New Goal in the Borough where their behaviour exhibited the moſt genuine ſigns of repentance, particularly H. Griffiths who was dreſſed in white with crape about her bonnet, ſhed abundance of tears, which drew the moſt lively ſenſations of pity from the people aſſembled.

This morning they were conveyed in a cart from the New Goal attended by an eſcort of conſtables, &c. to Kennington Common.

John Clark, the unfortunate malefactor, was born of honeſt parents, in the town of Kingſton, where he remained till 16 years of age. He then came to London where he turned coachman.

He maintained himſelf for ſome time with a fair character, but, unfortunately, having no employment, he fell in company with Tomlinſon, who had long been habituated in the ways of vice, by whoſe perſuaſion he commenced the wicked courſe of life which terminated ſo fatally for him,

At the place of execution, as well as on the way thither, he behaved in a manner becoming his unhappy ſituation. He read and prayed the whole way to the fatal tree; and there he earneſtly joined in prayer with the clergyman who attended. A few minutes before he was launched off, he thus addreſſed the ſurrounding multitude, which was very great:

"Good Chriſtians,

"YOU ſee in me the affects of deviating from the ways of honeſty; had I borne with the temporary evil of want of employment for a ſhort time. I ſhould not only have avoided the ignominious fate which awaits me, but have lived to be the comfort of my aged parents, in their time of need.

"Oh! young men, let my example be a warning to you, avoid evil company—avoid the embraces of the harlot—for they will inſenſeptably lead you to a fatal end.

"Pray for me, good people. Lord have mercy on my ſoul. Amen."

He was in his 23d year when he ſuffered.

Leonard Tomlinſon, who ſuffered at the ſame time, and for the ſame crime, was born in London, where he was early given to wickedneſs, and has been guilty of many depredations on the public.

During his confinement, as well as on his way to the place of execution, he behaved with more ſigns of penitence than was to have been expected from one that had lived ſo abandonly.

Hannah Griffiths, the third unfortunate criminal, who is only in her 18th year, was born of honeſt, but poor parents in Shoreditch. Her parents ſent her out early to ſervice, in which ſituation ſhe behaved well for ſome time, but, unfortunately, forming a connection with a young man, and wiſhing to appear well dreſſed to obtain him for a husband, ſhe was induced to rob her maſter, of many valuables, for which ſhe was now to ſuffer.

Their behaviour throughout was penitent and much affected the ſpectators.

The night before ſhe ſuffered ſhe wrote the following Letter to her ſweetheart.

"DEAR WILLIAM,

"This comes to bid you an eternal farewell. I thank you for your kindneſs in coming to ſee me. Oh! my William, had I loved you leſs I might have been happy, but you could not help the ways I took to pleaſe you, though I muſt now atone for them with my life. Farewell, God bleſs you and I hope you will remember your poor Hannah; and keep the token of love I gave you. H. GRIFFITHS."